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SUBJECT: ICRC TO LAUNCH PRELIMINARY APPEAL TO PROVIDE
FULL, SHORT-TERM SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL 500,000 IDPS

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 1201
[1](#)B. ISLAMABAD 1079

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is likely to issue at least a preliminary appeal by June 5 for not less than an additional USD 40 million to almost double its program in Pakistan. The expanded program, intended to be massive in scale but limited in time, would support an additional 250,000 non-camp IDPs in June and a total of 500,000 IDPs in July. ICRC would use its additional funding to provide support to IDPs in Malakand, Buner, and Mardan, as well as those coming out of Waziristan and conflict-affected people in Swat. ICRC also currently operates, and would continue to operate, a total of six IDP camps in Dir, Malakand and Swabi. The planned expanded program would result in an increase in ICRC's expatriate staff from 110-115 to approximately 190 and its local staff from 750 to 1,200. ICRC will also continue to cooperate with the hundreds of volunteers of the Pakistan Red Crescent and with other national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies whose programs in Pakistan will also increase. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is likely to issue by June 5 at least a preliminary appeal for funding (not less than USD 40 million) to almost double its program in Pakistan. The primary focus of the expanded program will be delivery of relief assistance wherever the need is greatest in Malakand, Buner, and Mardan, but ICRC will also increase its presence in Swat and is gearing up to assist expected IDPs from Waziristan, in addition to the camp and hosted IDP populations it already serves in Dir, Malakand and Swabi.

[1](#)3. (SBU) ICRC Delegation Head Pascal Cuttat, who just a few weeks ago had taken the position that program expansion would be ill-advised, said that ICRC and the Pakistan Red Crescent are now both of the opinion that a greater response is required despite the risks. ICRC's intention is to provide a massive relief response over a limited time period by supporting an additional 250,000 IDPs outside of camps in June and a total of 500,000 IDPs by July. ICRC would provide food, non-food items, and health services, as well as shelter and water/sanitation as required, whether the IDPs choose a camp or non-camp setting. It will procure most relief items locally. (Cuttat noted that water/sanitation provision in Pakistan requires more supervision and capacity-building by expatriates than in many other countries.) Cuttat hopes that

after July the ICRC program will be able to scale back down as IDPs return home and other humanitarian agencies move in. ¶4. (SBU) ICRC is now functioning with a USD 50 million Pakistan budget (of which \$11 million was unfunded as of about May 27). With an additional \$40 million, ICRC intends to roughly double its program in terms of services delivered but will not double staff. ICRC in Pakistan is currently staffed by 110-115 expats, 750 local staff, and the cooperation of hundreds of Pakistan Red Crescent volunteers.

Cuttat would expect to bring in about 80 additional expats (for a total of about 190) and to bring ICRC national staff up to about 1,200. Cuttat does not/not expect to maintain this staffing level over the entire next year but will push hard to staff up quickly for a limited time. ICRC is confident of its ability to implement its expanded program. It has already mobilized a rapid deployment unit of about 20 expatriates who will arrive in days to launch the expansion. ICRC is putting among its best and most experienced people into this effort, particularly in its choice to open a new office in D.I. Khan (currently head of the London office) and its choice of humanitarian coordinator for the surge (currently head of the delegation in Budapest). The humanitarian coordinator will ensure that ICRC's program is well coordinated, without overlap or surprises, with other relief efforts, particularly those of the UN.

¶5. (U) ICRC's new IDP support effort will be in addition to the support it currently provides to approximately 60,000 IDPs: 2,000-3,000 IDP families in its 4 camps in Dir, 1,200 hosted families also in Dir, 2,000-3,000 IDP families in its two camps in Malakand, and roughly 3,000 families in Shah

ISLAMABAD 00001210 002 OF 002

Mansour camp in Swabi.

¶6. (SBU) ICRC intends to open a small office in D.I. Khan in about ten days and plans, as part of its expanded program, to support 50,000 to 100,000 IDPs from Waziristan. ICRC has a fixed wing aircraft and has been pushing hard for access to the five airstrips in North and South Waziristan, so far without success. The ICRC plane is able to fly into D.I. Khan, however. Cuttat acknowledged that lack of permission to fly into Waziristan thus far was undoubtedly due to the military's security concerns stemming from the anti-aircraft capability of the militants.

¶7. (SBU) National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including some already present (i.e. the American, British, Canadian, and German societies), are also willing to expand their programs. On June 5, ICRC will coordinate with national societies in Geneva to ensure security protocols, mobilization, administration and coordination requirements are met. (Note: Cuttat said that neither ICRC nor the American national society has American citizens working in Pakistan for security reasons.) National societies will cover unmet needs of a few thousand families in a small area east of the Indus in Northwest Frontier Province and will also help with ICRC's already established program and operate with host communities in relatively safe areas such as Swabi. ICRC currently operates six camps including Shah Mansour Camp which currently has more than 21,000 IDPs in Swabi and is one of few camps with additional capacity. ICRC will focus over the next few days on stabilizing Shah Mansour to prevent flooding when rains begin.

¶8. (SBU) With enhanced funding, ICRC will also establish a surgical field hospital in Quetta, as it has in Peshawar. ICRC is already treating 200 individuals a month in Quetta in private hospitals.

PATTERSON